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travelling for pleasure during the whole course of his life, who has gone into the Colonial Office as a junior clerk and up the different grades. The gentleman has never been in a colony, or sat at the table of a Legislative Council, he has no knowledge of the business of the Government of a colony except what he may have learnt from books or gathered from the despatches daily in his hands, and he can hardly explain the difference between one colony and another. (Hear, hear.) I ask you is that the man, a man who has never seen the! himself, who has no ideas

who knows nothing of the nature of this colony, of the business carried on here, of the character of the Chinese or anything connected with them; is that the man to whom the de-

There are of course exceptions in the Colonial Office, there are some men who have been in other colonies and who know something of the practical working, but as a rule the officers there have not been and they are simply accustomed to the routine of their office and the red tape that regulates it. And these are the men with whom the ultimate decision of such questions as I have suggested rests. The Secretary of

years, and has a vast number of questions to occupy him. He may be able to decide them if they are laid fairly and fully before him, but he has to depend upon the records of the Office and the permanent Under Secretary is the man who is supposed to have those records at his finger ends. It is of course impossible for the Secretary of State to give a just, fair and candid answer to the unreasonable

questions submitted to him. He is nominally the head, but the real work is done by permanent under secretaries. I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, whether that is a form of Government much more efficient than the form of Government that ought to prevail in a colony where I make bold to say the bulk of the European inhabitants are men of very considerable intelligence and education and most of whom are thoroughly capable of thinking for themselves and thinking for the interests of the colony? (Applause.) You see how things are discussed here. The Legislative Council is a complete

even, it does not give counsel, it does not give advice. The mouths of the majority of the members are closed and prevented from giving advice. They are discouraged from even studying the subject brought before them. It is said that in the Executive Council they can do that, but I do not think so.

of them now and again may, but if he does it as a man of much more independent character and strength of mind than by far the greater number of them. (Renewed applause.) You may be perfectly certain the man who is afraid to express his opinion at the Legislature's Council, who is dependent on the Governor's recommendations for his future in life, will not oppose the Governor's wishes as the Executive

Council, and more than 100 years ago the Legislative Council. It would be ten thousand times better that there should be no Legislative Council, and that the Governor should be entrusted with autocratic powers and have the whole responsibility resting upon him, than that he should shelter his decisions under the pretence of a discussion which is from beginning to end an entire sham. (Applause.) These

which exist in the form of Government. Now to bring these remarks round again. If Dr. Cantlie's Bill for the incorporation of his Medical College is to be dealt with under the existing system as I have stated, the first thing in order to get reform in education, sanitation, or any other improvements which are recognised as necessary for the progress and well-being of

the methods of local Government, which will secure for those subjects such a complete discussion and debate as will enable the Secretary of State, or whoever is the ultimate authority, having the views of both parties before him to come to a just decision. Therefore I

if, all the wants of Hongkong at the present moment (is the necessity for such a reform in the methods by which the Government is administered as will ensure for the Governor, who must have certain autocratic powers, and for the ultimate Court of appeal the fullest possible information, the amplest materials, for forming their opinions. (Loud applause).

Mr. Sidney Page seconded the amendment of

Mr. E. E. Pollock, in an interesting speech, preferred the urgency of the municipal needs of Hongkong and in the course of his remarks expressed the opinion that the regulation of the water of the colony, and the control and

in the hands of the Sanitary Board, and not as at present under the sole direction of the Director of Public Works. Able and capable as that officer was he did not consider it fair to Mr. Cooper to leave these heavy and important responsibilities on his hands. He concluded by moving another amendment to the effect that what Hongkong wants most is muni-

Mr. M. Fredericks responded.
Mr. Ed. Robinson challenged what he described as a fallacy in Mr. Francis' argument in assuming that the popular voice and popular power in the Legislative Council would necessarily achieve desirable reforms. He quoted the instance of Sir William Denison carrying the Sunday Closing Ordinance, against a very numerous opposition on the part of the busi-

Dr. Castile, being called upon to defend his motion that education was the most pressing need of the colony, did so in a humorous and spirited speech. He replied to Mr. Francis' attack on the system of the officials voting en masse together by pointing out, amid laughter, that the unofficials did the same thing. He wanted to know therefore why the officials

party feeling and the unofficials go rebuked. He contended that the Legislative Council was perfect, and was divided on just the same party lines as every other assembly, and he believed that it was far best that it should be so. He proceeded to urge his motion, maintaining that the man who was best educated could govern himself best, and he impressed the

For Mr. Pollack's amendment, declaring municipal reform to be the greatest want, only 2 voted, and it was therefore lost.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

the shareholders of the National Bank of China, Limited, was held at the office of the Bank yesterday. There were present Messrs. D. Gillies (Chairman), Chow Tung Kwang, C. J. Hirst, Chan Kit Shan, W. Wotton, Kwan Hoi Chuen (Directors), and many others, representing personally or by proxy 570 shareholders holding over \$3,000 shares.

before you the accounts for the past six months little remains to comment upon. The figures speak for themselves. Progress is being steadily made; we are already more than self-supporting with our present capital, and with an expanding connection have every confidence that our substantial progress will be proportionately increased. Our expenses are also kept as low as is consistent with efficiency. True economy,

however, in addition to the above, we have also increased the length of intelligently defining the limit of necessary expenditure. Our scope of business has much increased during the past six months and we have hitherto with considerable success so planned our working to accommodate and facilitate first class Chinese merchants and our endeavours so far have met with most satisfactory success. In connection with Chinese business I would

of our shareholders Chinese, but the Chinese directors themselves (with their families) possess over 271,000 worth of our shares. As a tentative measure, we have opened at Foochow and hope to secure a share of the business of that port. When our articles of association were drafted a Committee of Directors was established at Shanghai and as that

and all the operations of our Manager there can be controlled from here, there is no reason why the expense of such a Committee should be

